Mr. THACHER's

DISCOURSE

BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT

BOSTON,

BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF *MASSACHUSETTS*,

JUNE 10th, 1800.

BY THOMAS THACHER, A.M.

MINISTER OF A CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY IN DEDHAM.

——————Levior Charontis
Cymba ſcit dudum, et Lacheſis triumphos
Faſſa minores.

ALSOPI, Oda 4.

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY JOHN AND THOMAS FLEET, CORNHILL, 1800.

At a Semiannual Meeting of the HUMANE SOCIETY
June 10th, 1800.

VOTED, That Doctor JOHN WARREN, President, Honorable Judge PAINE, Judge DAWES, Rev. Doctor LATHROP, and NATHANIEL BALCH, Esq. be a Committee to wait upon the Rev. THOMAS THACHER, and to return him the thanks of this Society for his elegant and ingenious Discourse delivered before the Humane Society this day, and to request of him a Copy for the Press.

An Extract from the Records
of said Society,
JOHN AVERY, *Recording Secretary*.

DEDHAM, *June*, 1800.

GENTLEMEN,

AS this Discourse was delivered at the desire of the Humane Society, it is cheerfully submitted to their disposal. It is dedicated to the principle of the Institution, which will cast a veil over its errors. I am sensible of the politeness, with which the request for its publication has been communicated;

and am GENTLEMEN,
with the most respectful sentiments,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,
THOMAS THACHER.

Doct. John Warren,
Hon. Judge Paine,
Hon. Judge Dawes,
Rev. Doct. Lathrop,
Nathaniel Balch, Esq. } Committee.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A

DISCOURSE.

LUKE VIIth CHAP. 12th VERSE.

"*Now when he came nigh the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only ſon of his mother, and ſhe was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.*"

THIS is one of the numerous examples of compaſſion and philanthropy, exhibited by our bleſſed Saviour. It preſents a ſcene, which, while it excites thoſe tender and ſolemn emotions, by which the heart is made better, gives a pleaſing view of divine power, employed (I had almoſt ſaid) in its nobleſt occupation, the relief of the wretched.

WHEN our Lord travelled through Nain, a city of Galilee, he met a funeral proceſſion;—it was that of *a young man, the only ſon of his mother.* The circumſtances, though related with ſimplicity, tend to excite the extremes of grief.

He

He *was a young man*, cut off in the "bloſſom of his days." The ſanguine hope of his friends for his future uſefulneſs and fortune was blaſted forever. He was a melancholy inſtance of that triumph of the king of terrors over the human race, which waits not the ſlow proceſs of time and age, which comes, when our expectations for the future are higheſt, and when we can moſt rationally indulge our deſire of long life. To the uſual regret, which attends events of this nature, this excruciating circumſtance was added—he was the *only ſon of his mother*.

PAINFUL is it to the affectionate parent to loſe any member of his family: but yet there may be plants which remain. The cords of love are commonly tightened in proportion as their circumference is leſſened. He *was the only ſon of his mother, and ſhe a widow*. May we not conjecture, that he was the pillar and laſt human refuge of a decayed family; that to the agonizing ſenſibilities of loſing an only ſon, was added the near proſpect of poverty and dependence.

And much people of the city was with her——Without queſtion, they aſſembled for the benevolent purpoſe of pouring balm on the wounded ſpirit, and of adminiſtering ſuch conſolations, as might abate the effects, though they could not remove the cauſe of her affliction.

AT length, the ſovereign Phyſician of mankind approached. In the moſt gracious language, he addreſſed the woe-worn parent, forbidding her to weep. Cloathed with his Father's power,

power, he unfolded the gates of death ; he commanded the black deſtroyer of mankind to drop his prey. When both life and hope were extinguiſhed, the firſt was miraculouſly reſtored. We can feel the mingled emotions of ſurprize, joy and gratitude in the mother, the ſon and the circle of friends. All attempts to paint them would fall far below the original. It is enough for us to obſerve—that they excite ſentiments, adapted to mend our hearts, and to animate us to render every poſſible aid to the ſuffering : they particularly create a high reſpect and devotion to the intereſts of an inſtitution, founded on the principles of benevolence and compaſſion to mankind : an inſtitution, of which it is doubtful to determine, whether it hath greater claims for praiſe from the intelligent, for the *wiſdom of its deſign*, or from the benevolent, for the productive effects of *its operation*.

It is true, its members pretend to no divine or preternatural powers. But impreſſed with the excellent character of the great friend of mankind, they have ſtudied by all human meaſures to awaken life in thoſe, who were *nigh unto death ;* and to reſcue from the dominion of the grave, thoſe who were apparently within its power. Many have been the inſtances, wherein their exertions have been effectual. Under the auſpices of the benignant and ever watchful providence, the parent hath been reſtored to the deſpairing family, and the child to the inconſolable and weeping relatives. Quiet and unoſtentatious have been the operations of this ſociety ; but ſtill efficient and energetic.

Truly

Truly noble and generous in its purpoſes, the members are far more happy in the gratitude of unknown individuals, and in the approbation of their own minds, than the troublers and deſtroyers of mankind, under the applauſes of venal flattery, or when decked with the meretricious ornaments of falſe praiſe and glory.

It will be expected on this occaſion, that we ſpeak of the political, moral and religious advantages, which ariſe from this inſtitution, concluding with ſome few reflections on the whole.

1. This inſtitution has a natural tendency to advance one of the moſt uſeful ſciences; ſince it will conſtantly be exhibiting new diſcoveries and experiments to the profeſſors of the healing art. I am ſenſible this part of the ſubject more naturally falls within the province of the gentlemen of the faculty, who have ſhewn themſelves amply competent to its diſcuſſion. I ſhall therefore limit myſelf to ſuch parts of this propoſition, as fall under my general plan, and are directly allied to the other parts of the ſubject.

Even where our efforts for reſtoring life have been ineffectual, many of the cauſes of life and death have been explored, and have been ſucceſsfully applied by the learned, to other caſes, ſo as to render the effects in the end, of great advantage. The inquirer after knowledge, is delighted not only with the ſatisfaction of having rendered an important ſervice to a fellow creature; but by contemplating the wonders of the human frame, is elevated to more ardent

attempts

attempts to preſerve mankind, and to adore the wiſdom of our common parent. The united communications of ſo many reſpectable literary characters, have produced far greater acquiſitions to this branch of knowledge, than could have been obtained from the ſame number of individuals of as great, or even of ſuperior abilities.

We may add, without the imputation of vanity, that the community reaps greater advantages from the ſtudy of life, than are derived from that of other ſciences. To ſome of theſe we may with juſtice apply the obſervation of the wiſe man; *He that increaſeth knowledge increaſeth ſorrow:* Of others we may ſay, they are uſeful only to their owners: a third claſs have increaſed wealth, and enlarged commerce; but, at the ſame time, by introducing luxury and affording proviſion for the gratification of corrupt and ſenſual paſſions, have often made the wiſe and good to envy the condition of ſimple barbarians. But the good which we derive from this inſtitution is without alloy. If we partake of this branch of the tree of *knowledge*, *life* not *death* is the conſequence. While we have twined the laurel wreath around the head of ſcience, we have paid due homage to genius, without originating the rancorous ſpirit of envy.

2. Our reſpect for human life, and anxiety for its preſervation, are perfectly agreeable to the ſyſtem of our holy religion, and to the principles of our mild and free government: a conſtitution comprifing the efforts of the higheſt human wiſdom, and tending to the greateſt degree of happineſs, which mortals can enjoy. Among ferocious,

unenlightened nations, animal life is but little regarded, and its loſs but little deplored. Under tyrannical governments, the ſame remarks occur, becauſe their principles ſuppoſe "the monſtrous faith of many made for one." No wonder that in theſe ſituations mankind are ſanguinary in their temper, and deaf to the calls of humanity. They may not unreaſonably conclude, that where exiſtence is attended with ſo many calamities, it is not worth preſerving. But in free countries, the rights of perſons precede the rights of property. The dignity of man is honored; and proviſion is made, not only to protect him from the violence of the murderer, and from the vengeance of the aſſaſſin, but to reward him, who ſhall reſcue a citizen, when expoſed to the perils of accidental death. Among the Greeks, a crown of laurel was beſtowed on him, who had ſaved a citizen; becauſe he was ſuppoſed to be ſuperior to all pecuniary recompence. The Romans, for the ſame ſervice, and probably from the ſame motive, conferred a ſimilar honorary diſtinction.

THIS Society, inſtructed by ſuch illuſtrious precedents, proportions its rewards to the ſenſibilities and condition of the receiver. It excites a variety of motives to adventure in the cauſe of humanity. It hath been ſaid, "that by an ingenious contrivance, it has inliſted avarice itſelf under its banner." But though it omits no addreſs to the human heart, which can avail its benevolent purpoſes; yet why may not its pecuniary rewards be given and received without the imputation of turpitude? For what doth it proffer rewards? For complying with moral obligations.

Has

Has it any intereſts but thoſe of common humanity? We do not tax the generous ſoldier with mercenary views, when he has adventured his life for his country, and diſcovered more than common degrees of courage. Can we ſuppoſe, that pay and promotion were his higheſt object? and will not a ſmall degree of chriſtian charity lead us to ſuppoſe, that a man, who adventures his own, to ſave the life of another, is governed by a motive equally generous?

To exhibit their regard for the preſervation of their fellow creatures, this ſociety generouſly remunerates the expenſes and attention, which are paid to the ſuffering object. Thus the pooreſt citizen, under caſes of like extremity, may, without fearing to bring diſtreſs upon himſelf or family, indulge the feelings of a noble heart.

3. Another excellent quality of our inſtitution is, that it eſpecially reſpects the lives of a very uſeful part of the community—our mariners, who are expoſed to more than common danger. Theſe, from their manner of life, are citizens of the world: on this account, they are leſs liable to attract individual charity, and therefore have a ſuperior claim to our attention. Our gazettes annually announce the loſs of no inconſiderable portion of their number; part of whom would be ſaved, could our benevolent intentions be more effectually executed. While the care and expenſe of this ſociety, in affording to theſe unhappy men ſhelter, proviſion and fuel, muſt excite warm approbation in every benevolent heart; what indignation muſt be enkindled at

thoſe rapacious wretches, who have often defeated its kind intentions. It is to be wiſhed, that our Legiſlature would, by energetic regulations, provide for the detection and puniſhment of thoſe men, compared with whom other thieves are holy.

4. The liberal and catholic foundation, on which this ſociety is eſtabliſhed, muſt merit reſpect from the wiſe and good. No improper prejudices or partial intereſted views are admitted in its conſtruction. It may be obſerved of ſome ſocieties of a kindred nature, that they are confined by a religious creed, by local ſituation, or by circumſtances of perſonal convenience to the donors. We do not by any means feel ourſelves authoriſed to condemn them. It is both lawful and laudable to promote our ſentiments, and even intereſt, where they are not incompatible with the public good, or with fairneſs and juſtice to individuals. But ſtill, when we contemplate the principles of the *Humane Society*, the words of St. Paul may be adopted, and without vanity may its members addreſs other inſtitutions; *We will ſhew you a more excellent way.* For if our bounties are limited to one deſcription of afflicted objects, yet ſtill they include that claſs of the unfortunate, who are leſs liable to fall within the notice of other charitable aſſociations. In truth, its munificence is extended to him who is ready to periſh, and to him who ſaves a ſoul alive, of whatever nation or climate he may be. This is a humble and happy imitation of that infinitely wiſe and good Being, *who cauſes his ſun to*

ſhine

ſhine on the evil and on the good, and who ſendeth his rain on the juſt and on the unjuſt. Its alms are truly diſintereſted, for neither praiſe nor gratitude is demanded from the receiver. Is not this conformable to the precepts of the goſpel? Is it not agreeable to the laws of that divine teacher, who has tanght us to be private in our charities, to avoid flattering returns, and not to let our *left hand know, what our right hand doeth*?

5. THIS inſtitution has a tendency to promote piety as well as ſocial virtue. The wonderful examples of divine mercy which occur, muſt lead us to be mindful of that Being, *who numbereth the hairs of our head;* and doth not *permit a ſparrow to fall to the ground without his leave.* The recollection of ſuch events muſt naturally excite us to look in future, to the protection of that all animating cauſe, by whom *we live, move and have our being,* and conſequently generate habits of devotion in the ſoul. Beſides, the love of our neighbour is of a nature ſo cloſely allied to the love of GOD, that when we have the former, we have the latter conſequentially. The Deity is incomprehenſible in nature and perfection. The imperfect knowledge of him, which we have acquired, ariſes from contemplating the ſublime and beautiful works of creation, and from moral and mental excellence, which we find in his intelligent creatures.—*Who can by ſearching find out God? Who can find out the Almighty to perfection? It is high as heaven, what canſt thou do? deeper than hell, what canſt thou know?* In fact, the Almighty Parent is ſo infinitely above us, that when we attempt

attempt to deſcribe our love to him, we muſt admit, that it is mixed ſo cloſely with the principle of fear, that it is difficult to ſeparate them from each other. Its beſt illuſtration is in the reverence and affection, which a dutiful child has to an earthly father. This may produce ſublime piety and uniform obedience, ſufficient to conſtitute a good man; but yet it does not include thoſe minor graces and charities, which play round the heart, and which adorn and ſweeten human life. The inſpired apoſtle has aſſured us, that without philanthropy there can be no piety; *He that loveth not his brother, whom he hath ſeen, how can he love God, whom he hath not ſeen.* And another inſpired author has told us, that *we are divinely taught to love one another.* It is impoſſible for us to admire and love a picture, and at the ſame time hate and deſpiſe the original: when therefore we honor and love the image of God, we reſpect the Deity himſelf.

6. The mind, by contemplating thoſe ſubjects, which are connected with this Inſtitution, will be filled with noble and generous ſentiments. Here are no polemical party diſcuſſions on religion or civil government: here are no irritable emulations for literary fame; and conſequently no ſtings of rage at diſappointment. But the mind triumphs in aſcertaining the effects of its exertions for the cauſe of humanity. That heart muſt be baſe indeed, which is not ſoftened at the recital of the miſeries, with which the world abounds; which doth not rejoice, when calamity and death are removed from a fellow creature, and which doth

not

not approve of and delight in thoſe characters, to whoſe intrepidity a fellow-being owes the continuance of his exiſtence. Conceive an example ſimilar to that mentioned in the text; "that a young man, the only ſon of his mother, and ſhe a widow, had been nigh unto death from the wintry ſtorm or watry element; that the prompt exertions of ſome character, unappalled at danger, had reſcued him from the jaws of death, and delivered an amiable family from ſuſpenſe and horror. Had but one ſuch example occurred, I ſay, ſince our incorporation, it would have amply repaid our expenſe, our cares and exertions.

We have, however, far greater cauſes of ſatisfaction, than any ſingle example. The annual returns which we receive from the different parts of the Commonwealth, abundantly prove, that we have not labored in vain. Though the good man loves to do good in ſecret; yet it is a pleaſure to him to know, that his charity has been commenſurate with the wants of the object; and that he has ſelected the moſt worthy objects of his bounties. In like manner, our motives to perſeverance and to redouble our efforts muſt ſtill be increaſed, when we find ſuch advantages have ariſen from our attempts. Is not this a proof of the aſſent and co-operation of that eternal providence, through whoſe wiſdom and goodneſs, all intelligent and animal nature is continued in exiſtence?

We do not wiſh to leſſen the merit of other ſocieties. Let due praiſe be given to the Academy of Arts and Sciences, whoſe

whoſe literary labours have already given and we truſt will continue to give celebrity and renown to the genius and acquirements of Americans. Let us applaud that reſpectable aſſociation, through whom we have obtained ſuch additional knowledge of agriculture, as has produced a plenty and luxury of all native productions. We will fully appreciate thoſe opulent citizens, who have promoted induſtry and mechanic inventions, who have devoted their attention and fortunes to the cultivation of the finer arts. Let our enlarged commerce, let the noble palaces and elegant rural ſeats, let the embelliſhments of the natural beauties of the country, proclaim their worth. In the mean time, let ours be the godlike ambition of preſerving life, of protecting the ſtranger, ſuccouring him who is ready to periſh, rewarding the generoſity of the poor but noble-ſpirited citizen, who exhauſteth his little ſubſtance on the exile and out-caſt, in beſtowing the rights of ſepulture on thoſe objects, who have neither friend nor brother. Theſe are the triumphs we have exhibited. They are recorded on the hearts of the unhappy, whom we have relieved. They are witneſſed and acknowledged by the wiſe and good. And they will finally be proclaimed, with the higheſt honor, before the intelligent univerſe at the great and laſt day.

7. THERE is one obſervation more, which will bring me to the concluding reflections on this ſubject ; i. e. *Every man is under a moral obligation, to perform not only all the good he can, as an individual ; but all that may be effected by him in his collective capacity.*

FROM

From what has been already obſerved, we find, that the good, which can be effected by the united wealth, wiſdom and virtue of men, aſſociated for benevolent purpoſes, is ſuperior to what they could effect without connection as individuals. This ſentiment will hold good in reſpect to other ſocieties. We find our paſt ſucceſs in the cauſe of humanity, has induced numbers of worthy citizens to enrol themſelves in our community. May we not ſuppoſe, that, as theſe advantages become more tranſparent, there will be ſuch a farther acceſſion of good men, as will enable us to extend our views, and to render more important ſervices to our country and mankind, than were at firſt even conceived? Is it not therefore our duty as men and as chriſtians, to promote by every mean in our power, the intereſts of this ſociety? Doth not the increaſing wealth and population of the country render it, on the one hand more practicable, on the other more neceſſary? It was organized under circumſtances and impediments which were more than commonly diſcouraging. The United States had cloſed a long and expenſive war. This city was ſuffering the effects of the devaſtation received from a brutal and ferocious enemy. Our want of an efficient government created uncertainty in all our tranſactions. Public and private credit failed; and on all ſides there was a near proſpect of poverty and ruin. Yet amidſt thoſe clouds in which our political horizon was enveloped, the penetrating eye of the firſt members diſcerned the future utility and moment of this inſtitution. Their moſt ſanguine calculations have been realized. Some

of them indeed are removed from their earthly labours; but poſterity will bleſs their memories. Among our deceaſed patrons, we ſhould be criminal to omit the names of a *Ruſſell* and a *Clarke* *: the former of whom, with a ſoul more liberal than his noble fortune, ſtands firſt as our benefactor: the latter aſſiſted us by his ſcientific labours, and drew up the conſtitution of this Society. For his extenſive erudition and philanthropic heart, he ever ought to be remembered, as a delight and ornament to human nature. May the example of the illuſtrious dead provoke the emulation of the living; of the rich, that they imitate their bounties; of the learned, that they contribute by their abilities and influence to promote the intereſts of humanity. May one and all of us uſe every effort in our power, to leſſen the natural evils of life. Let us take for our example the great Redeemer of mankind, who devoted his attentions particularly to the children of affliction.

May our light ſhine before men, that they ſeeing our *good works*, and the fruits of our beneficence, may not only copy but exceed us in charity. And may we, by pious affections toward God, and by ſocial virtues toward mankind, be prepared for the *ſecond coming* of Jeſus Chriſt, when he ſhall *wipe away all tears from all faces*, and baniſh natural evil and death from the creation.

* To theſe names may be added—The Hon. JAMES BOWDOIN, late Governor of this Commonwealth, and firſt Preſident of this Society; eminent as a Stateſman, a Philoſopher, and a friend to humanity.

APPENDIX.

Letter from William Hawes, M. D. *Treaſurer of the* Royal Humane Society *in* London, *to the Correſponding Secretary.*

O magna vis veritatis, quæ contra hominum ingenia, calliditatem, ſolertiam, contraque fictas omnium inſidias, facilè ſe, per ſe ipſam defendat! Cic. Orat. pro Coelio.

Spital-Square, Sept. 18, 1799.

SIR,

I FEEL a particular pleaſure in writing to you upon a ſubject, which, in the language of Lord Bacon, comes home to every man's buſineſs and boſom.—It will redound to the honor of this country and this age, that in ſpite of difficulties apparently inſuperable, a ſociety has been formed for the ſalutary purpoſe of abridging the triumphs of death. The ſucceſs of this humane inſtitution, in a variety of caſes, has convinced the hardeſt ſceptic, that ſigns of death are equivocal and fallacious; and that thouſands have been prematurely conſigned to the grave, for want of uſing the means ſo ſtrongly recommended by the unwearied benevolence of a few individuals.

It was reſerved for the preſent age to forward and facilitate a plan fraught with ineſtimable bleſſings to this and future generations; a plan which ſtands an illuſtrious monument of the zeal, philanthropy and ability of the faculty.—It will afford you the higheſt ſatisfaction to be informed, that your kind preſentation of ſeveral copies of Dr. Walter's truly ingenious diſcourſe, delivered before the Maſſachuſetts Humane Society, arrived ſafe. With what rapture, with what heart-felt ſatisfaction muſt the Directors of other Humane Societies reflect, that the beneficent exertions of profeſſional characters, have triumphed over death, and that each ſucceeding year is attended with additional cauſes of exultation.—It will be a reflection highly gratifying to the active friends of your humane inſtitution to be informed that our ſociety has increaſed the ſtock of human happineſs, by exhibiting this year at their *Anniverſary Feſtival*, a greater number than ever, of men, women and children, reſtored to their friends and relatives; ſo that the Medical Aſſiſtants enjoyed the inexpreſſible pleaſure of being applauded by more than four hundred exalted and philanthropic characters.

" Hail Science! to thy mighty power,
" We conſecrate this joyful hour,
" Teeming with bleſſings given:
" Recall'd by thee to life's warm day,
" To thee we dedicate this lay,
" Hail harbinger of Heaven."

The

THE Rev. VICESIMUS KNOX, in his lucubrations on Life and Manners obſerves—" Many were the prejudices formed againſt the Society for the " recovery of drowned and other ſuffocated perſons ; but let any one " place himſelf a moment in the ſituation of a parent ſuddenly bereaved of " his child, and if he is not unfeeling in his nature, he will want no argu- " ment to induce him to give it every encouragement.—Doubts were " once entertained of its ſucceſs, but they may now be removed by " ocular demonſtration."

MAY heaven proſper every inſtitution, which has for its object the preſervation and reſtoration of the human race.

MAY ſuch unwearied exertions unite us all in the bonds of permanent friendſhip, is the ardent wiſh of a ſincere labourer in the great cauſe of reſuſcitation ;—and permit me to conclude with this remark, that the efforts of the Truſtees of the Maſſachuſetts Humane Society cannot but reflect a peculiar luſtre upon their inſtitution.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your moſt humble ſervant,
WILLIAM HAWES.

To Dr. Aaron Dexter.

THE Truſtees of the Humane Society, having, in their private capacity, been informed of ſeveral inſtances of perſons who had incurred apparent death by drowning or otherwiſe, and been fortunately recovered by the means recommended by the Society, and no communication made thereof; and convinced that publiſhing the circumſtances of ſuch incidents would be attended with beneficial effects, hereby requeſt the citizens of this commonwealth, and particularly the gentlemen in the Medical line, to communicate to the Correſponding Secretary, all the inſtances that have, or ſhall come to their knowledge, of reanimation, and the means whereby thoſe happy events are accompliſhed, with ſuch other particulars of the time reſpiration was ſuſpended, &c. as they ſhall think of importance to notice : As it is by comparing the ſucceſs of different means and operations, that this important art can be brought to perfection. The Truſtees are alſo deſirous of extending the rewards promiſed by the Society for ſignal exertions throughout the Commonwealth, and for this reaſon they requeſt information of all attempts of reanimation, even if they prove unſucceſsful.

N. B. The Truſtees requeſt the ſame favour from the citizens of the neighbouring States.

An Extract from the Minutes of ſaid Truſtees,
JOHN AVERY, *Recording Sec'ry.*

At

At a Meeting of the HUMANE SOCIETY, June 11th, 1799.

THE TRUSTEES of the HUMANE SOCIETY, having had frequent applications for reward in cases for which the Constitution of said Society does not authorize their granting a Premium, wish their fellow-citizens to be informed, with a view to prevent fruitless applications, that the services for which said Society holds out a reward are,

FIRST. That when any accident shall happen producing apparent death, the person who shall first discover and endeavour to recover the subject, shall be entitled to a reward; but in no case are the Trustees allowed to exceed ten Dollars.

SECONDLY. The Person who shall receive into his or her house, the body of one apparently dead, with a view that means may be used for its recovery, is also entitled to such a compensation as the Trustees shall judge adequate.

THIRDLY. That any person who shall, by any signal exertion, save another from death, is entitled to a reward in proportion to the risque and danger incurred.

By a signal exertion the Trustees conceive, must be understood something more than barely reaching out the hand, or throwing a rope from a wharf, or a boat, or even wading into the water to half a man's depth, and rescuing a man from drowning; for the principles of common humanity and sympathy are sufficient motives for such exertions, but it must include the endangering his own life, or incurring some damage by impairing the health, or injuring his apparel or other property. In any or all these cases the Trustees are ready to grant adequate reward, when properly authenticated, but do not think themselves warranted by the regulations of the society to bestow them in other cases.

An Extract from the Minutes of said Society,

JOHN AVERY, *Rec. Sec'ry.*

PREMIUMS

PREMIUMS adjudged by the TRUSTEES.

1799.	*ſince* JUNE, 1799.	*Dollars.*
June, 13.	To Jonathan Loring, for a ſignal exertion in ſaving a Child of Mr. Knap's from Drowning, - -	8
Aug. 3.	To Aaron Clap, for ſaving the life of a Child of Mr. John Ripley, - - - -	8
Sept. 2.	To Chriſtian Howland, for ſaving the life of a Boy who had fallen into the dock, by the glaſs houſe, -	2
Octob. 7.	To Solomon Dennis, for ſaving the life of a Woman,	4
	To Thomas May, for ſaving the life of a Woman named Ducas, who had fallen into a Well, on Copps Hill,	8
Decem. 5.	To Peter Moody, alias Andricour, for ſaving a Man and	
1800.	Boy from drowning, in croſſing from Dorcheſter Neck,	10
Feb'ry. 3.	To Warren Chaſe, for ſaving from drowning a Boy, named John Roberts, near the North battery, -	2
	To Anthony Paine, for ſaving the life of Thomas Harris, who fell through the ice near Weſt-Boſton bridge,	2
May 5.	To Benjamin Burnett, for ſaving the life of a ſon of Samuel Lines, - - -	2
	To Nathan Buckman, for ſaving the lives of a Man and Boy, who had been upſet in a ſmall boat in Charles Riv.	6
	To Rufus Lucas, for ſaving the life of a ſon of Mr. John S. Auſtin, who was near drowning, -	5
	To Dr. Samuel Brown, for his Treatiſe on the Yellow Fever, a piece Plate value - -	54
		111

State of Treaſurer's Accounts for Year paſt.

	Dolls.	*Cents.*
To Balance dué to Treaſurer per laſt Account,	96	95½
To Expenſes of ſemiannual meetings, -	11	50
To building a Hut on Pettick's Iſland, -	50	
To repairing Huts & furniſhing them with Neceſſaries,	14	83
To Meſs'rs. Fleet's Account printing Dr. Hurd's Diſcourſe and Receipts, - -	47	66
To Manning and Loring, for printing Dr. Brown's Treatiſe, - -	118	81
To Jacob Kuhn, for his ſervices, - -	38	
To Premiums adjudged, - - -	111	
To Union Bank Stock purchaſed, - -	122	10
To Balance in Treaſurer's hands, - -	162	37½
Dols.	773	23

Contra Cr.

	Dols.	*Cts.*
By Intereſt on funded Stock of United States,	174	62
By do. Maſſachuſetts State Notes 5 per Cent.	105	68
By Dividends at Union Bank, - -	69	12
By Subſcriptions of Members, - -	417	66
By Donation from Mr. Eliphalet Pearſon, Cambridge,	6	15
Dols.	773	23

Society's Property in hands of Treaſurer.

		Dol's.	*Cts.*
United States 6 per Cent. Stock, *Dols.*	1442, 77		
8 per Cent Principal paid,	115, 37	1326	80
Ditto 3 per Cent. - - -		708	83
Ditto deferred, - - -		46	60
Ditto 8 per Cent. - - -		600	
Maſſachuſetts State Notes, 5 per Cent. -		2113	71
Union Bank Stock, - - -		868	
Weſt-Boſton Bridge, 2 Shares, coſt		417	17
Malden Bridge, 1 Share, coſt - -		140	
Accumulating Fund, on the above Share, in deferred Stock, - - -		287	98

N. B. The late Honorable THOMAS RUSSELL, Eſq. preſented the Share in Malden Bridge, to the Society, on the expreſs condition, that the Dividend ſhould be annually kept at Intereſt for the ſpace of twenty Years, and then the Principal and Intereſt be at the diſpoſal of the Truſtees.

We the Subſcribers, appointed a Committee by the Humane Society of Maſſachuſetts, at their annual meeting in December 1799, to examine the accounts of Rev. Doctor Parker, the Treaſurer, having attended that buſineſs, Do find every article in the debet ſide of the foregoing account vouched, the ſame right caſt, and a balance of one hundred ſixty two Dollars 37½ Cents due to ſaid Society from ſaid Treaſurer. We alſo find in his hands the evidences of the Property enumerated above.

Boſton, June 9, 1800.

Thomas Dawes,
John Hancock,
Sampſon Reed,
} Committee.

OFFICERS of the HUMANE SOCIETY, choſen in *Dec.* 1799.

JOHN WARREN, M. D. Preſident,
Rev. SIMEON HOWARD, D. D. firſt Vice Preſident,
Rev. JOHN LATHROP, D. D. ſecond Vice Preſident,
Rev. SAMUEL PARKER, D. D. Treaſurer,
AARON DEXTER, M. D. Correſponding Secretary,
JOHN AVERY, Eſq. Recording Secretary,

Rev. PETER THACHER, D. D.
NATHANIEL BALCH, Eſq.
JEREMIAH ALLEN, Eſq.
WILLIAM SPOONER, M. D.
SAMUEL PARKMAN, Eſq.
JAMES SCOTT, Eſq.
} TRUSTEES.

MEMBERS *deceaſed ſince the laſt Publication.*

Dr. Joſhua Barker, *Hingham*,
His Honor Moſes Gill, Eſq.
Ebenezer Hall, Eſq. *Medford*,
Edward Pulling, Eſq. *Salem*.

CATALOGUE of the MEMBERS of the HUMANE SOCIETY.

Names and Places of abode.

EXCELLENCY JOHN ADAMS, Eſq. *Preſident of the United States*,
Jeremiah Allen, Eſq.
Mr. William Allen,
Mr. Thomas Amory,
Mr. Thomas C. Amory,
Mr. Jonathan Amory, jun.
John Andrews, Eſq.
Mr. James Andrews,
Mr. John Apthorp,
Rev. Noah Atwater, *Weſtfield*,
John Avery, Eſq.
Mr. John Avery, jun.
Jonathan L. Auſtin, Eſq.

Nathaniel Balch, Eſq.
Loammi Baldwin, Eſq. *Woburn*,
Mr. Luke Baldwin, *Brookfield*,
Rev. Thomas Baldwin,
Mr. John Ballard,
Joſeph Barrell, Eſq. *Charleſtown*, 3.33
Rev. Thomas Barnard, D. D. *Salem*,
Mr. John Barrett, *Braintree*,
Dr. Joſiah Bartlett, *Charleſtown*,
Dr. John Bartlett, *Roxbury*,
Mr. George Bartlett, *Charleſtown*,
Dr. Thomas Bartlett,
Dr. Zaccheus Bartlett, *Plymouth*,
Major William Bell,
Mr. Shubael Bell,
Mr. Aſahel Biglow,
Mr. Edward Blake,
Mr. George Blanchard,
Samuel Blodget, Eſq. *Haverhill*,
Mr. William Boardman, jun.
Mr. Nathan Bond,
Mr. Kirk Boot,
Mrs. Eliſabeth Bowdoin, 5 *Dollars*,
Hon. James Bowdoin, Eſq.
John Boyle, Eſq.
Rev. John Bradford, *Roxbury*,
Mr. John Bray,
Samuel Breck, Eſq. *Philadelphia*, 3.33
Mr. Thomas Brewer,

Mr.

Mr. John Brewer, No. 4. *Paſſamaquody,*
Mr. Oliver Brewſter,
Rev. Joſiah Bridge, *Eaſt Sudbury,*
Hon. E. Bridge, Eſq. *Chelmsford,*
Martin Brimmer, Eſq. *Roxbury,*
Henry Bromfield, Eſq. *Harvard,*
Mr. William Brown,
Moſes Bullen, Eſq. *Medfield*
Mr. Jeremiah Bumſtead, jun.

Hon George Cabot, Eſq. *Brookline,*
Major Wm. Calder, *Charleſtown,* 2.
Mr. Joſeph Callender, jun.
Mr. Benjamin Callender,
Samuel Cary, Eſq. *Chelſea,*
Mr. Gardner L. Chandler,
Benjamin Clarke Eſq.
Mr. William Cleland,
John Codman, Eſq.
Hon. Peleg Coffin, Eſq.
Samuel Cooper, Eſq.
Andrew Cragie, Eſq. *Cambridge,* 2.50.
Mr. Joſeph Cunha,
Capt. Nathaniel Curtis,
Mr. Thomas Curtis,
Hon. Wm. Cuſhing, Eſq. *Scituate,* 3.
Hon. Nathan Cuſhing, Eſq. *Scituate,*
Thomas Cuſhing, Eſq. *Newtown,*
Mr. Edward Cuſhing,
Mr. John Cuſhing,
BenjaminClarkeCutler, Eſq. *Roxbury,*

Hon. Fran. Dana, Eſq. *Cambridge,* 3.33
Mr. John Dabney, *Salem,*
Mr. William Dall,
Mr. Peter Roe Dalton,
Dr. Thomas Danforth,
Mr. Iſaac Davenport,
Amaſa Davis, Eſq.
Hon. Thomas Davis, Eſq.
John Davis, Eſq.
Mr. Samuel Davis, *Plymouth,*
Mr. William Davis, *Plymouth,*
Mr. Joſhua Davis, jun.
Hon. Thomas Dawes, Eſq.
Hon. Thomas Dawes, jun. Eſq.
Elias H. Derby, Eſq. *Salem,*
Richard Devens, Eſq. *Charleſtown,*
Hon. Sam. Dexter, Eſq. *Weſton,* 2.25.
Aaron Dexter, M. D.
Mr. Thomas Dickaſon,
Rev. Timothy Dickenſon, *Holliſton,*
Iſaiah Doane, Eſq.
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr,
Samuel Dunn, Eſq.

Rev. Joſeph Eckley, D.D.
Mr. Edward Edes,
Samuel Eliot, Eſq.
Rev. William Emerſon,
Mr. Thomas Engliſh,
Oliver Everett, Eſq. *Dorcheſter,*

Mr. Richard Faxon,
Capt. Nathaniel Fellows,
John Fleet, M. D.
Mr. Thomas Fleet,
Dwight Foſter, Eſq. *Brookfield,*
Mr. Joſeph Foſdick,
Hon. Samuel Fowler, Eſq. *Weſtfield,*
Rev. James Freeman,
Dr. Nathaniel Freeman, *Sandwich,*

Mr. Caleb Gannett, *Cambridge,*
Rev. John Sylveſter John Gardiner,
Mr. Willard Gay, *Dedham,*
Hon. Elbridge Gerry, Eſq. *Cambridge,*
Mr. Benjamin Goddard,
Nathan Goodale, Eſq.
Nathaniel Goodwin, Eſq. *Plymouth,*
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Stephen Gorham, Eſq.
Mr. Moſes Grant,
Mrs. Catharine Gray,
Mr. Benjamin Gray,
Edward Gray, Eſq.
Capt. John Gray, 3. 33.
Mr. Joſeph Green,
Mr. Richard Green,
Francis Greene, Eſq. *Medford,*

Mr. Thomas Green,
Joſeph Greenleaf, Eſq.
Daniel Greenleaf, Eſq.
Mr. John Greenleaf,
David S. Greenough, Eſq. *Roxbury*,

Mr. Nathaniel Hall,
Joſeph Hall, Eſq.
Hon. Will. Hammett, Eſq. *Nantucket*,
Capt. Abraham Hammett, *Plymouth*,
Ebenezer Hancock, Eſq.
Mr. Thomas Hancock,
Mr. John Hancock,
Mr. William Harris,
Rev. Thaddeus M. Harris, *Dorcheſter*,
Mr. Moſes M. Hayes,
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Dr. Nathan Hayward, *Plymouth*,
Mr. Barnabas Hedge, *Plymouth*,
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Mr. Samuel Hunt,
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Dr. Iſaac Hurd, *Concord*,
Mr. Zaccheus Huſſey, *Nantucket*,

Jonathan Jackſon, Eſq.
Henry Jackſon, Eſq.
Mr. John Jackſon,
Mr. Edward Jackſon,
Mr. Samuel Janes,
Patrick Jeffrey, Eſq. 10.
Mr. John Jenks, *Salem*,
Hon. John Coffin Jones, Eſq.
Col. Iſrael Jones, *Adams*,
Mr. Thomas K. Jones,
Dr. John Joy,
Mr. Benjamin Joy,

Rev. John Thornton Kirkland,
Mr. Joſiah Knapp,
Mrs. Suſannah Kneeland,
Mr. Thomas Knox,
Mr. Jacob Kuhn,

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Mr. Caleb Loring,
Iſaac Lothrop, Eſq. *Plymouth*,
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Mr. Edward McLane,
Mr. John McLean,
Mr. John Marſton,
Jonathan Maſon, Eſq. *Brookline*,
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Col. Joſeph May,
Rev. John Mellen, *Barnſtable*,
Mr. Charles Miller, jun.
Hon. George R. Minot, Eſq.
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Rev. John Murray,
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Hon. Robert Treat Paine, Eſq.
Mr. William Paine,
Nathaniel Paine, Eſq. *Worceſter*,
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Mr. John Parker,
Samuel Parkman, Eſq.
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Thomas Perkins, Eſq.
Charles Phelps, Eſq. *Hadley*,

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Hon. Samuel Phillips, Eſq. *Andover*,
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Mr. Joſeph Peirce,
Rev. John Pipon, *Taunton*,
Mr. Joſeph Pope,
William Powell, Eſq.
Mr. William Pratt,
Rev. Thomas Prentiſs, *Medfield*,
Ezekiel Price, Eſq.
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Edward Proctor, Eſq.

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Col. Paul Revere,
John Rice, Eſq.
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Mr. Samuel Rogers,
Mrs. Hannah Rowe, 5 *dollars*,
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Mr. Daniel Ruſſel,
Major Benjamin Ruſſell,

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Daniel Sargeant, Eſq.
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Mr. Barney Smith,
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Mr. Ephraim Wales,
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George Watſon, Eſq. *Plymouth,*
Marſton Watſon, Eſq.
Joſiah Waters, Eſq.
Mr. John Waters,
Arnold Welles, Eſq.
Dr. Thomas Welſh,
Hon. Oliver Wendell, Eſq.
Rev. Samuel Weſt,
Mr. James White,
Mr. Ezra Whitney,
Mr. Samuel Whitwell,
Mr. William Whitwell,
Rev. Joſeph Willard, D.D. *Cambridge,*
Mr. William Williams,
E. Williams, Eſq. *Weſt-Stockbridge,*
Thomas Williams, jun. Eſq; *Roxbury,*
Mr. Charles W. Windſhip,
Dr. Iſaac Winſlow, *Marſhfield,*
Thomas L. Winthrop, Eſq.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

NATHANAEL ADAMS, Eſq. *Portſmouth.*
Rev. ANDREW BROWN, D. D. *Scotland.*
JOHN BULKELEY, Eſq. *Liſbon.*
Mr. THOMAS BULKELEY, *Liſbon.*
AMMI RUHAMAH CUTTER, M. D. *Portſmouth.*
Capt. JOHN CALEF, *St. Chriſtopher's, (Weſt-Indies.)*
Hon. OLIVER ELLSWORTH, *Chief Juſtice of the United States.*
Rev. JOHN ERSKINE, D. D. *Edinburgh.*
ANTHONY FOTHERGILL, M. D. *Bath.*
EDWARD GOODWIN, M. D. *Bath.*
WILLIAM HAWES, M.D. *London.*
Rev. JOHN KEMP, *Edinburgh.*
JOHN C. LETTSOM, M.D. *London.*
Hon. JOHN LANGDON, Eſq. *Portſmouth.*
Dr. JOHN OSBORNE, *Middletown, (Connecticut.)*
Hon. TIMOTHY PICKERING, Eſq. *Philadelphia.*
Hon. JOHN PICKERING, Eſq. *Portſmouth.*
Dr. BENJAMIN RUSH, *Philadelphia.*
WILLIAM RUSSELL, Eſq. *Middletown, (Connecticut.)*
Right Hon. EARL of STAMFORD, *London.*
Hon. JAMES SHEAFE, Eſq. *Portſmouth.*
Hon. SAMUEL TENNY, Eſq. *Exeter.*

APPAREN

APPARENT DEATH——LIFE RESTORED.

" He ſinks!—is loſt!—none near to give relief!
" And hark—that ſcream!—a frantic mother's grief!
" Fix'd on the flood that would her babe deſtroy,
" Her eager eye deep ſearches for her boy:
" He's found!—but ah! when anxious drawn to ſhore,
" The mother breathleſs!—views her child—no more!
" But, Heav'n-inſtructed—ev'ry effort's try'd
" Which Wiſdom plann'd, and Study has ſupply'd.
" Eager to ſave, each panting boſom burns;
" Life, half departed, 's beckon'd, and returns:
" What rapt'rous bliſs the eager mind receives,
" When parent Extacy exclaims—*He lives!*"

RESUSCITATIVE PROCESS.

WHAT THOU DOEST—DO QUICKLY.

OCCIDIT, QUI NON SERVAT.

CONVEY the perſon to the neareſt convenient houſe, with his head raiſed: Strip and dry him as quick as poſſible; clean the mouth and noſtrils from froth and mud. If a child, let him be placed between two perſons naked, in a hot bed. If an adult, lay him on a hot blanket or bed, and, in cold weather, near a fire—In warm weather, the air ſhould be freely admitted into the room. The body is next to be gently rubbed with warm woolen cloths ſprinkled with ſpirits, if at hand, otherwiſe dry: A heated warming-pan may be now lightly moved over the back, properly covered with a blanket—and the body, if of a child, is to be gently ſhook every few minutes: Whilſt theſe means are uſing, one or two aſſiſtants are to be employed in blowing up tobacco-ſmoke into the fundament, with the inſtrument provided for the purpoſe, or a tobacco-pipe, if that cannot be had—the bowl filled with tobacco and properly lighted, being covered with a handkerchief, or piece of linen, ſo as to defend the mouth of the aſſiſtant in blowing: Bathe the breaſt with hot rum, and perſiſt in the uſe of theſe means for ſeveral hours. If no ſigns of life ſhould then appear, let the body be kept warm ſeveral hours longer, with hot bricks, or veſſels of hot water, applied to the palms of the hands, and ſoles of the feet, and this for a longer or ſhorter time, as the circumſtances of the caſe may dictate.

The too cuſtomary method of rolling on a barrel, ſuſpending by the feet, and every other violent mode of agitation, particularly in removing the body from the water, ſhould be moſt carefully avoided. To

To reſtore breathing—Introduce the pipe of a bellows, (when no apparatus is at hand) into one of the noſtrils, the other and mouth being cloſed, *inflate the lungs*, till the breaſt is a little raiſed; the mouth and noſtrils muſt then be let free.

Repeat this proceſs till life appear.

Electricity is recommended to be early employed by judicious Practitioners.

INTENSE COLD.

Rub the body with ſnow, ice or cold water; reſtore warmth by ſlow degrees, and after ſome time, if there be no appearance of life, the plans of reſuſcitation for the drowned muſt be employed.

SUSPENSION BY THE CORD.

A few ounces of blood may be taken from the jugular vein, cupping-glaſſes applied to the head and neck, and bleeding at the temples. The other methods of treatment, the ſame as recommended for the apparently drowned.

INTOXICATION.

The body to be laid on a bed, with the head a little raiſed; the neck-cloth, &c. removed.

Obtain immediate MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, as the modes of treatment muſt be varied according to the circumſtances of the patient.

SUFFOCATION BY NOXIOUS VAPOURS.

Cold water to be repeatedly thrown upon the face, &c. drying the body at intervals. If the body feels cold, employ gradual *warmth:* and the plans for reſtoring the drowned, in all caſes of apparent death.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

RESUSCITATION.

On the *dawn* or firſt indication of returning life, the prudent practitioner will reſign the office of *Art to Nature.*—It is evident that ART has contributed her ſhare by enabling *Nature* to ſtruggle with the immediate cauſe of oppreſſion.

It is in fact this judicious blending of *Nature* with *Art* that gives to the latter all its efficacy.

1.—ON SIGNS OF RETURNING LIFE,

A tea-ſpoonful of warm water may be given; and, if ſwallowing be returned, warm wine, or diluted brandy. The patients muſt be in a warm bed, and if diſpoſed to ſleep, they will generally awake perfectly reſtored.

2—The plans above recommended are to be uſed three or four hours. *It is an abſurd and vulgar opinion to ſuppoſe perſons irrecoverable, becauſe life does not ſoon make its appearance.*

3.—BLEEDING NEVER TO BE EMPLOYED, UNLESS BY THE DIRECTION OF A PHYSICIAN.

REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS ON REANIMATION.

SUPPOSE YOURSELVES but for a few moments in your evening walk of rural retirement, imagine your contemplations interrupted by an uncommon appearance.—Behold a young man dragged to the ſhore without life or motion.

SCARCE AN HOUR has paſſed ſince the object of their attention had left his circle of domeſtic happineſs.—And now his body ſwoln, his eyes ſunk, and his face livid. WITHOUT the leaſt ſigns of life they convey him *in hopeleſs deſpondence* to his own home.—FEAR, DESPONDENCY, and HORROR, are ſpread over the afflicted family. On one ſide behold the *aged mother* lamenting her loſt child; on the other ſtands mute the *diſtracted wife*, afraid to look up to the horrid ſpectacle; whilſt the *innocent little ones* look with amazement, and wonder at the ſilence of him who always ſo kindly greeted them on his return.

THOSE WHO WOULD moſt gladly take upon them the taſk of reſtoration are moſt unable to perform it; and all the precious moments which ſhould have been employed in the means of his recovery, are loſt in fruitleſs lamentation.—They hang over him in ſilent anguiſh, take their laſt farewell in the agonies of deſpair, and conſign him to the grave.

And now obſerve the change.—It chances that one of the *ſons of humanity* (which is but another name for this inſtitution) is paſſing by.—As ſoon as he hears of the event, he flies, like the *Good Samaritan*, to the chamber of ſorrow; he ſtops thoſe who had aſſembled but to gaze at and deſert him, calls on them to aſſiſt him, and aſſiduouſly applies with zeal proper means to reſuſcitate.—*Death*, unwilling to relinquiſh his devoted prey, ſtruggles powerfully to detain it; ſeems to ſmile, as it were, at the ineffectual labour; till at length ſubdued by *fortitude* and *perſeverance* he gives up the conteſt.

"A RAY OF HOPE breaks in upon the gloom, and lights up every countenance.—Behold, at laſt, again HE MOVES, HE BREATHES, HE LIVES.—What follows is *not* within the power of language to deſcribe: *imagination* alone can ſuggeſt to true *Philanthropiſts* the delightful ſcene of wonder and aſtoniſhment, of mutual joy, tranſport, and felicity."

N. B. The above and two preceeding Pages are, with ſome alterations, taken from the Annual Report of the *ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY* in *London* for 1799.

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